

We have seen a number of different initiatives designed to bring peace to troubled regions, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and the Middle East. However, the Administration needs to demonstrate our nation's strong interest in bringing the violence in Kurdistan and Nagorno-Karabagh to an end. The sale of 120 ATACMS moves our nation in the wrong direction and could further fuel the war and destruction in both regions.

Though the Administration has announced it intends to pursue the sale, I make one last plea to urge it to reconsider its decision. If the Administration intends to complete the sale, I would urge at the very least that it impose a few basic conditions. In short, if these missiles are for national self-defense, the sale should be conditioned solely for that purpose. More to the point, the missiles should not be placed so as to pose a threat to the people of Greece and Cyprus. Further, the Turkish government should promise that none of the missiles be transferred to Azerbaijan. And finally, the missiles should not be used to prolong the violence in Kurdistan. The Clinton Administration at the very least should insist on these conditions at the very least. The Clinton Administration also should make clear that failure to abide by these conditions could undermine future economic and military assistance.

Again I believe this sale to be bad policy. It is a mistake. However, if the Administration intends to pursue this sale, it should at the very least make clear that this nation insists on this equipment being strictly limited to self-defense. If we are going to be forced swallow this very bitter pill, the Administration should try to make it less bitter.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the letter to Secretary Christopher be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 18, 1995.

Hon. WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We are writing to express our strong opposition to the Clinton Administration's proposed sale of 120 army tactical surface-to-surface missiles (ATACMS) to Turkey.

As you well know, for more than a decade the Turkish government has waged a brutal war against the Kurdish people. According to recent data from Human Rights Watch (HRW), the conflict has resulted in 19,000 military and civilian dead, 2,000 villages destroyed and more than 2 million being forced from their homes.

What concerns us deeply is the use of American-made military equipment to commit these atrocities and to prolong the war against the Kurdish people. Specifically, it has been reported that in 29 incidents from 1992 and 1995, the Turkish Army has used U.S.-supplied fighter-bombers and helicopters to attack and fire against civilian villages and targets. Further, U.S. and

NATO-supplied small arms and armored personnel carriers have been used in a counter-insurgency campaign against thousands of Kurdish villages.

The Kurds are not the only ones to have been subjected to attack with U.S. or NATO equipment from Turkey. Indeed, the record of the last twenty years is disturbing. Most notably, the Turkish military used NATO military hardware when it invaded and occupied the now-divided island of Cyprus. Further, Turkey has transferred US and NATO weapons to Azerbaijan, where they have been used against civilian Armenians residing in Nagorno-Karabagh.

In the face of this history, the President now wishes to supply the Turkish Army with 120 ATACMS, each of which is capable of carrying a warhead payload of 950 small cluster bombs. With these weapons, the Turkish Army has the capability to launch a horrendous ballistic missile attack on the Kurdish people. The results would be equally disturbing if any of these missiles ended up in the hands of the Azeris, or were deployed within range of either Cyprus or Greece.

Mr. Secretary, the Clinton Administration has taken a great interest in achieving peace in troubled regions, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and the Middle East. However, the Administration needs to demonstrate our nation's strong interest in bringing the violence in Kurdistan and Nagorno-Karabagh to an end. By arming Turkey with 120 ATACMS, we would send the opposite message and further fuel destruction in both regions.

The time has come for the United States to take a stand for peace throughout the entire Middle East. For that reason, we urge the Clinton Administration to reconsider its proposed sale of tactical surface-to-surface missiles to Turkey.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

LARRY PRESSLER.
ALFONSE M. D'AMATO.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, almost 4 years ago I commenced these daily reports to the Senate to make a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of close of business the previous day.

In that report—February 27, 1992—the Federal debt stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of close of business the previous day. The point is, the Federal debt has increased by \$1,163,199,095,296.10 since February 26, 1992.

As of the close of business Tuesday, December 19, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$4,989,090,388,362.90. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,938.67 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

THE RETIREMENT OF COL. FRANK K. HURD, JR.

Mr. THURMOND, Madam President, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Col. Frank K. Hurd, Jr., from the U.S. Army. Colonel Hurd has served his country for over 26 years. He was an outstanding soldier and a dedicated Chief of the Army Liaison Office to the U.S. Senate, a position he has held for the past 3 years.

Colonel Hurd was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Armor through

the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduation from Mercer University in his home State of Georgia. During his distinguished career, he served in a number of leadership assignments that took him to Korea; Bad Kissingen, Germany, where he commanded cavalry troops; Athens, Georgia, where he was an assistant professor of military science; and to Bamberg, Germany, where he commanded the 2d Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Colonel Hurd has succeeded admirably in his role of representing the Army's interests on Capitol Hill and acting as a liaison between the Department of the Army and the Senate. He has always been prompt, responsive, and sensitive to the needs of members and staff for up-to-date, complete, and accurate information.

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am pleased to offer him my congratulations on a distinguished career, and I wish him and his family good health and happiness in the years ahead.

THE YORKTOWN AND MONROE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM: UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY BY BRIDGING THE MILES

Mr. HEFLIN. Madam President, over 3 years ago, in September 1992, teacher Susan Ross of Yorktown High School in Yorktown Heights, NY, contacted my office to inform me of a wonderful new project which she had recently developed for her ninth grade students. She had just organized a cultural exchange program between her students and the students of Monroe County High School in Monroeville, AL. As part of the program, she wanted to get my recollections of what it was like growing up in Alabama and in the South.

Yorktown Heights is located about a half-hour's drive from New York City in a rural area surrounded by farming towns. Monroeville is the hometown of writer Harper Lee and was the model for the fictional town of Macomb in her Pulitzer Prize winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird." The courthouse in Monroeville actually served as part of the set for the Academy Award-winning film version.

This classic novel, which Ms. Ross has taught her classes off and on for 26 years, proved to be the catalyst for her program. One year, while reviewing the books that she would use in her class for the upcoming school term, she realized, in her words: "I was teaching a book about a culture I knew nothing about, and I was possibly doing a disservice to it. To understand the issue from the character's point of view, you need to go to the source, so I did."

Going to the source meant first approaching her counterparts in Monroeville. First, she contacted Monroe County High School Principal Pat